The area of current incident adjoins the Rajwar forest, which is a traditional infiltration route from Keran Sector, leading to the areas in Kupwara region. On numerous occasions, the Army had requested the villagers to restrict their movement at night, and in case of emergencies, the persons moving were to carry lanterns/torches.

However, the incident has been deeply regretted by the Army. Compensation of Rs. three lakhs each to the dead and Rs. two lakhs to the injured civilian has been paid. It is pertinent to mention that, the troops deployed in J&K are in a state of perpetual high alert, in view of the recent spurt in infiltration attempts by terrorists. To avoid repetition of incidents of collateral damage due to mistaken identity, the local population has been once again cautioned to strictly follow the instructions under Section 144 and in case of emergenices, carry lanterns/torches at night. The Army troops, in turn have been sensitized to exercise restraint and use discretion during conduct of counter terrorist operations.

Decline in rural employment rate

*328. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that in recent years rural employment rate has declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the proposals and action plan of Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development has not conducted any survey on the rural unemployment rate. However, according to the 55th Round survey on employment conducted by the National sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, the unemployment rate in rural areas on Current Daily Status basis was estimated as 7.2 percentage of labour force, which was 5.6 percentage in the year 1993-1994.

2. Tenth Plan envisages creation of 50 million employment opportunities during 2002-07. To create employment potential, the Tenth Plan has

identified the labour intensive sector and sub-sectors for development such as agriculture, including social forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, horticulture and related areas and small and medium industries, construction, tourism, information technology, financial sector, education and health.

3. Employment generation is a multisectoral issue involving several Ministries/Sectors. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing two major employment generation schemes namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). The Government have also launched a new wage employment Scheme namely National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts of 27 States of the country in order to generate supplementary wage employment and providing food security through the creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The NFFWP is open to the rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work. To provide employment in the rural areas to the needy, a comprehensive Bill known as "National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill" has been framed and introduced in the Parliament.

Agency to investigate the discrepancy in the figures of textiles

*329. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a discrepancy in the figures of textiles exports from the country and Government had appointed a professional agency to study the discrepancy in the figures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) India's export data is compiled by the Directorate General Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata. According to the provisional the DGCI&S data, India's textile exports recorded a growth of 6.7% to USA and a negative growth of (-) 13.5% to EU during the period January-April, 2005 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. However, the import data of US and EU authorities show a growth of 27% and 11.7% respectively in the textile imports from India